

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226220

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. LISBON POLITICAL ROUNDUP

6 BOMBS EXPLODED IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND. ONE
DETONATED SEPTEMBER 21 AT THE NAVY CLUB NEAR LISBON WHERE
PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO WAS STAYING. EMBASSY LISBON ALSO
REPORTS THAT:

--TH SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS WILL GET TWENTY
OF THE THIRTY SECRETARY OF STATE SLOTS, WHILE THE
COMMUNISTS WILL GAIN FOUR.

--THE COMMUNISTS INTEND A MAJOR EFFORT TO CONSOLIDATE
GAINS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR MADE UNDER GONCALVES.
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THEY HOPE THE LEFT-LEANING SOCIALIST AGRICULTURE MIN-
ISTER WILL BE SYMPATHETIC TO THEIR PLANS.

--COPCON COMMANDER OTELO SAYS HE WILL OPPOSE ANY TURN

TO THE RIGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

--DURING A DEMONSTRATION IN OPORTO SEPTEMBER 20, SEVERAL THOUSAND ANGOLAN REFUGEES APPEALED TO THE US, FRG, SWISS, FRENCH, AND BRAZILIAN CONSULATES FOR AID. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 5569 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LVO OPORTO 216, 9/22.)

2. ANGOLA: MPLA ASPIRES TO NONALIGNMENT

AN MPLA OFFICIAL TOLD CONSUL KILLORAN SEPTEMBER 19 THAT WHEN THE NEW ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES ITS RECOGNITION POLICY IT WILL REMEMBER US ASSISTANCE TO FNLA AND ZAIRE. THE OFFICIAL ADDED THAT ANGOLA WOULD NEVER BECOME SLAVE TO ANOTHER MASTER NOR GRANT BASE RIGHTS TO ANY POWER, INCLUDING THE USSR. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LUANDA 1826, 9/22.)

3. THE LEBANESE BODY POLITIC IS ILL

FOLLOWING ANOTHER BREAKDOWN OF THE CEASEFIRE ON SEPTEMBER 22, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS TURNED TO COMMUNAL LEADERS, MODERATE PALESTINIANS, AND THE SYRIANS TO MEDIATE MOSLEM/ CHRISTIAN AND LEFT/RIGHT CONFLICTS. EMBASSY BEIRUT BELIEVES THAT:

--THE PHALANGE IS IN A NO WIN POSITION AGAINST THE INSISTENT DEMANDS OF THE MOSLEM MAJORITY AND THE LEFTISTS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

--ONLY WHEN THE "FORMAL" GOVERNMENT AND SEMI-INDEPENDENT "BARONS" SUCH AS JUMBLATT, CHAMOUN, AND ARAFAT ARE MERGED INTO A SINGLE AUTHORITY WILL THE COUNTRY BE PACIFIED.

--SYRIA, NO LONGER THE BIG BROTHER NEXT DOOR BUT RATHER THE ARBITER OF LEBANESE DOMESTIC POLITICS, IS STILL CONFIDENTIAL

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UNFAMILIAR WITH THE RULES OF THE GAME AND REMAINS PRUDENTLY WARY.

--ALMOST ALL SECTORS WISH A RECONCILIATION. HOWEVER, THE EXTREME LEFT, ALTHOUGH INHERENTLY WEAK, KEEPS THE POT BOILING TO ITS OWN ADVANTAGE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIRUT 11797, 11803, 9/22.)

4. EGYPT: FAHMY ON THE PERSHING

EMBASSY CAIRO REPORTS THAT IN A PRESS RELEASE FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY OPINED:

--THE TRANSFER OF NEW WEAPONS TO ISRAEL, ESPECIALLY THE
PERSHING MISSILES, WOULD PUSH THE MIDDLE EAST INTO A
DANGEROUSLY ESCALATED ARMS RACEMV

--THIS DEVELOPMENT"DOES NOT REFLECT AN INTENTION TO
ESTABLISH A JUST AND PERMANENT PEACE."

THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT THE PRESS HAS REPORTED SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER'S COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT. (UNCLASSIFIED)
CAIRO 9371, 9/22.)

5. ZAMBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUE TO TALK

ZAMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA TOLD EMBASSY LUSAKA
ON SEPTEMBER 21:

--FACED WITH THE RHODESIAN STALEMATE, ZAMBIA AND SOUTH
AFRICA HAVE AGREED TO KEEP COMMUNICATIONS OPEN THOUGH
STANDING ASIDE WHILE THE ANC AND SMITH SORT OUT THEIR
PROBLEMS.

--VORSTER AND KAUNDA AGREED "VERY CONFIDENTIALLY" AT

VICTORIA FALLS THAT IF WARFARE COMES IN RHODESIA NEI-
THER WILL INTERVENE MILITARILY.

--SOUTH AFRICA AND ZAMBIA ARE WORRIED THAT THE SOVIETS
COULD DESTABILIZE SOUTHERN AFRICA BY INTRODUCING ARMS
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AND INFLUENCE INTO ANGOLA, UGANDA, AND MOZAMBIQUE,
WHERE THE SITUATION IS PARTICULARLY DELICATE.

CHONA RECOMMENDED THAT THE USG ASK SOUTH AFRICA TO IMPLORE
SMITH TO AVOID UNNECESSARY BLOODSHED BEFORE THE INEVITABLE
TRANSFER OF POWER. THE EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THAT REC-
OMMENDATION. (SECRET) LUSAKA 1811, 9/22.) INGERSOLL

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